[Guide to the SH6 Yahgan File]

[This file contains data on the Yahgan or Yamana of Tierra del Fuego. The sources processed are all modern, but include a survey of earlier sources. All are written by professional anthropologists.

1:Gusinde is an outstanding example of modern ethnography, often cited by other writers as a model of thorough exposition. Most of the original work has been especially translated for the files, omitting only sections on mythology and much of the history of European contacts. Gusinde covers a wide range of subjects, overlooking little, but emphasizing the religious and ceremonial life in great detail. The work is based on long and intimate contact with the Yahgan people. 2: Cooper is a survey or summary of the Yahgan culture, a secondary source which serves as an introduction to the people and the literature. 3: Lothrop is based on field work, and is a complement to 1: Gusinde inasmuch as it stresses the material aspects and technology of the culture.

Although this file is based on only three sources, it presents a relatively complete view of Yahgan culture due to the unusually thorough study of Gusinde.]

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